

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

**Friday, March 21, 2003**

**8:30 – 11:30 AM**

**\* 1A-1D are joint sessions for judges, commissioners, and FCS staff**

**I A\* Family and Community Effects on Child Development**

Results of the latest research in child development theory, the roles of parents, courts, and communities in promoting children's psychological well-being, particularly in situations of poverty, substance abuse, or violence. (*California Rules of Court, rule 5.225 (e) 1, 3*)

**I B\* Parenting Plans from a Child Development Perspective**

A menu of choices for creating parenting plans based on the stages of child development will be presented. Complicating factors, such as high conflict, and models for addressing these factors, such as parallel parenting, will be discussed. (*CRC 5.225(e) 13*)

**I C\* Continuum of Services in Family Court Services**

What are counties doing to provide a continuum of services in family court services? Some counties are providing a two-tiered system of confidential and recommending interventions, others start from a mediation process that can include recommendations. Models will be presented to promote discussion.

**I D\* Drug Update**

The ins and outs of drug testing and how the court can use these in addressing drug abuse allegations in family law cases. (*CRC 5.225(e) 11*)

**I E Working With Step Families and Blended Families**

What helps stepfamilies provide loving and supportive environments for children? What are the greatest challenges to the viability of stepfamilies and how can they be mastered? This workshop draws from research and clinical practice to bring new understanding to the complexities of step family cases. (*CRC 5.225(e) 2*)

**I F Best Practices in Domestic Violence Cases**

What promotes best practices in working with domestic violence cases? What are the obstacles and challenges that get in the way? What resources are available to support best practices? This workshop will examine statewide and national efforts to improve the handling of domestic violence cases. (*CRC 5.225(e) 6, 18*)

**I G Peer Review Model: Enhancing Service Quality in Supervised Visitation**

Overview of the Supervised Access Program in Ontario; the rationale for conducting a peer review, developing and implementing a process that meets the needs of supervised visitation service providers, and evaluating a model of service provision against best practices to improve service.

**II A Ethics and Implementing California Rules of Court**

What kinds of ethical responsibilities arise out of the rules of court for mediators and evaluators? Topics will include impartiality, objectivity, differentiation of roles, and safety issues. (*CRC 5.225(e) 14, 15, 16, 20*)

**II B Juvenile Dependency Mediation**

What promotes best practices when working with complex and difficult juvenile dependency mediation cases? A panel of juvenile dependency professionals will discuss promising practices.

**II C Narrative Mediation: A New Approach to Conflict Resolution**

This workshop will address commonly held assumptions that impact people in conflict, the ideas that underpin a narrative approach to resolving conflict, how to help people separate themselves from the divisiveness of a dispute and create shared meaning, and how to acknowledge the cultural influences that impact the parties in conflict.

**II D Child Interviewing: Tools & Techniques**

This workshop will address interviewing techniques that are age-appropriate. It will include child behavior checklists and evaluation and assessment tools. (*CRC 5.225(e) 7*)

**II E Child Sexual Abuse**

Topics will include assessment of child sexual abuse issues and the effect that child sexual abuse has on court procedures and the mediation and evaluation process. The requirements of Family Code 3118 will be discussed. (*CRC 5.225(e) 4*)

**II F Testifying in Court**

Various perspectives on testifying will be examined, such as what initiates a request for testifying, what makes a good witness from a judicial officer's point of view, the attorney's role in cross-examining an expert witness and how to handle various situations that may arise during cross-examination, how the evaluator or recommending mediator prepares for testifying, and how the report relates to this process. (*CRC 5.225(e) 19*)

**II G Intersection Between DV and Supervised Visitation**

One of the challenging dilemmas in child custody matters is whether supervised visitation services will do more harm than good for victims and children of domestic violence. This workshop will explore the intersection between domestic violence and the delivery of supervised visitation services by looking at systematic strategies regarding court referrals, lack of adequate information and inadequate assessment, proposed techniques for safety planning, how providers maintain their role of "neutrality", appropriate prevention strategies to ensure and promote safe visitation, and discussion of challenges to providing effective service delivery. (*CRC 5.225 (e) 6*)